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DraperiesMany new and beautiful things shown  
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The Spring is now here, and we call at-  
tention to the fact that every day we are  
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vegetables. Prices always reasonable.

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ness enables us to undersell  
all others.

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Second Largest Shoe Store in the World.

## AMUSEMENTS.

Murray and Mack are to get starting next  
season in a new farce by Mark E. Swan,  
author of "Brown's in Town."James A. Herne is to get up the produc-  
tion of Viola Allen's new play by P. Marion  
Crawford, entitled "In the Palace of the  
Kings."Henshaw and Ten Broeck have placed  
themselves under the management of Robert  
Grau, who will book them in vaudeville  
houses.George C. Boniface, Jr., is reported to  
have been engaged by Edward Rice for  
his latest amusement venture, "Mildred and  
the Musketeers."Victor Herbert conducted the orchestra  
in person at the Columbia Theater, Chi-  
cago, last week, when Alice Neilson per-  
formed his new opera, "The Singing Girl.""Three of a Kind," a farce-comedy, writ-  
ten by E. E. Kipper, with plenty of music,  
fun and dancing in its structure, opens at  
the Park Theater this afternoon, to re-  
main three days, with a matinee every day.In "The Regatta Girl," the new Koster &  
Bial burlesque, to-night three actors will  
be introduced in a travesty on the work  
of Elbridge T. Gerry, Anthony Comstock  
and Dr. Parkhurst, New York's three great  
reformers."Three Little Lambs," the musical com-  
edy coming to Elms' Friday and Satur-  
day of the present week, is built along the  
lines of the famous "Three Little Pigs,"  
"The Rounders," and similar productions  
such remarkable successes as amusement  
enterprises.Jacob Litt has signed a contract with  
Seymour Hicks, the English author and  
actor, to furnish him with a new melo-  
drama, to use early next fall. Mr. Litt also  
has an agreement with Cecil B. DeMille  
to supply him with one play each year for a  
period of years.The bill at the Empire Theater this  
afternoon and for the first three days of the  
week will be a second engagement of  
vaudeville organization which has amused  
Empire Theater patrons before. The com-  
pany will doubtless be greeted with a  
crowded house.James E. Fennessy, manager of the  
People's Theater, Cincinnati, is in New  
York, where he will in a few days be joined  
by William Fennessy, and the two will at-  
tend to the booking for next season in the  
Empire circuit of vaudeville theaters, of  
which the Empire Theater in this city is a  
part."The Sorrows of Satan," Mario Corbelli's  
remarkably weird and fascinating melo-  
drama, is booked for second engagement  
this season at the Park Theater. Thurs-  
day afternoon of the current week, Man-  
ager Anton states that he has preserved  
until the summer the complete record of  
the play at its first appearance here a  
few weeks ago."Camille," which is to be the bill at the  
Grand all this week, can scarcely fail to be  
witnessed by large audiences, since it was  
put on only in response to an unmistakable  
demand from the Grand's patrons. The  
company, who had in mind Miss Shannon's  
conspicuous success in the title role, last  
season, despite the fact that the play was  
under the disadvantage of a severe cold.The performers who will take part in  
Manager Charles Zimmerman's benefit en-  
tertainment held at rehearsal at the Em-  
pire Theater yesterday afternoon. Among  
those who will assist is Michael Duffey,  
a local vocalist, who has the popular  
ballad, "She's a Bird in a Gilded Cage."  
This singer, who has an exceptionally fine  
voice, has been heard in different local en-  
tertainments.Robert Downing, the well-known actor  
and manager, opens a three days' engage-  
ment at English's Opera House to-night,  
in "An Indiana Romance," a new comedy  
drama of rural life, from the pen of J. C.  
Nugent. The piece is said to contain sev-  
eral very cleverly drawn characters, in ad-  
dition to a clean and interesting story.  
The engagement includes a special matinee  
Wednesday.It has been practically settled that "Ben-  
Hur" is to open the new Colonial Theater,  
Boston, now in process of construction for  
Isaac B. Rich, of the theatrical firm of  
Rich & Harris. Builders and engineers are  
now in New York to take measurements of  
the bridge work and special appliances  
which were fitted into the stage of the  
Broadway Theater, and which will be dupli-  
cated in the Boston playhouse.To-night's performance at the Grand  
Opera House will have two points of inter-  
est, in addition to the beautiful production  
of "Camille" that has been arranged by  
the stock company. Frank Camp, the new  
assistant engaged for Carleton Macy, will  
make his first appearance in public as a  
member of the company, and all those  
who, for any reason, have failed to secure  
their choice of favorite photographs, will be  
given an opportunity to complete their sets  
of pictures.Clara Butt, the English contralto of phe-  
nomenous voice, is to make another tour  
of America next season, after appearing  
at the Metropolitan Opera House, New  
York, will be heard in the principal roles  
of the country. Mr. Wolfsohn also an-  
nounces the engagement of Mme. Lillian  
Blauvelt, who will probably tour in com-  
pany with Augusta Catlow, the young  
American pianist. Miss Catlow recently  
recited in Berlin, with marked suc-  
cess.Some of the Eastern stock companies  
have attracted attention recently by their  
enterprise in producing comparatively new  
plays, even though the royalties on such  
pieces are enormous. A stock organization  
in Pittsburgh not long ago put on "An  
American Citizen," the piece in which Nat  
Goodwin lately starred with extraordinary  
success. The royalties on this play is said to  
be close to \$1,000 per week.Dearborn stock company, Chicago, ap-  
peared in "Rosemary," the joint success of  
John Drew and Otto Skirwin, and one of  
the newspapers published in the WindyCity remarks: "The house has never  
seemed more popular than in the last few  
weeks."Augustus Thomas, author of Stuart Rob-  
son's new comedy, "Oliver Goldsmith,"  
went to a town a short distance from New  
York, a few weeks ago, to consult with  
Robson as to whether any changes were  
needed in the play. As he was about to  
register at the hotel where he proposed  
to stay, Mr. Thomas heard the clerk say to  
a friend: "Talk about 'Oliver Goldsmith,'  
being great! Why, it's simply stuff and  
nonsense. Just the actors that have made  
something out of it. It is a marker to  
Thomas's 'Alabama'—what do you think  
of it, stranger?" turning to the dramatist,  
Thomas much to his surprise, then signed  
his name on the ledger in plain let-  
ters, and when the clerk looked the signa-  
ture over he fairly gasped in astonishment.  
Later in the day he accosted Mr. Thomas  
in the hotel lobby as follows: "There is no  
doubt that your play is a fine one, the  
critics all praise it, and the public likes it  
too. But you see they had an advantage  
over me in not having seen the book of  
'Oliver Goldsmith.' Will you have a cigar?"  
"No," gasped Thomas, staggered by this  
display of "business" on the part of the  
actor. "I haven't read it, either."

## A SERMON BY A SYRIAN

HE DESCRIBES BIBLICAL LANDS  
VERY GRAPHICALLY.Mr. M. E. Barakat Was Born in Da-  
mascus—A Human Foot Em-  
balmes 3,500 Years Ago.The evening services at the First Pres-  
byterian Church yesterday consisted of a  
brief talk on "Evidence Found in Bible  
Lands" by the Rev. M. E. Barakat, a Na-  
tive of Damascus. The Rev. M. E. Barakat,  
pastor of the church, in introducing the  
speaker, said he was born in Damascus,  
and at the age of five years was saved from  
nassure by the Mohammedans by a kind  
woman who took him to her home and  
nursed him. During the massacre in  
Syria in 1882 he narrowly escaped with his  
life and had at other times been subjected  
to great personal danger on account of his  
religion.The Rev. Barakat took his text from the  
exile Psalm, the 135th verse. After briefly  
mentioning the fact that the Bible is dis-  
credited by many, he said: "The word of  
God needs no evidence because it has its  
life within it. But for the minds of some  
he said, was the word of the Bible, the  
word and have not felt the word of God  
in their lives, it is necessary to bring out  
some points outside the word to prove to  
them its truthfulness. There are three  
points of evidence. The lay of the coun-  
try, shown in traveling from town to town;  
the life of the people and what is found  
by digging in the bosom of the earth  
and bringing out the tables and stones."The speaker then reviewed briefly the  
country as it is described in the Bible, and  
showing how it had been kept for cen-  
turies in practically the same state as  
described in the Bible. He told of build-  
ings in which the Bible says took place  
important events, and said that though  
they had been rebuilt from time to time  
they had always been reconstructed and  
repaired along the lines of the original.  
A small white plaster cast, about the  
size of a common book, was shown, which  
he said, was the tablet of the original  
and which was in the Babylonian museum  
and was the most valuable tablet ever  
found. He gave a brief description of the  
writings of the ancients, which was first  
done in pictures and then in what is called  
the syllabic system. The tablet was found  
by George Smith and shortly thereafter  
twelve other tablets were found which  
proved to be connected with the first.  
Standing before the speaker was a tablet  
to be the history of the people and coun-  
try 3,500 years before, and on the margin  
of one was a notation which gave evi-  
dence that some of the tablets were  
copies of writings of two thousand years  
before. The record was complete and the  
finding of the key to this tablet gave  
the key to thousands of other writings  
which had hitherto been unintelligible.  
He said the Bible and the outside evidences  
of its truthfulness told of the manner of  
embalming, and the time taken. During the  
glory of Egypt the record says that it re-  
quired forty days to properly embalm a  
body where it had previously taken sev-  
enty days. The speaker then read a por-  
tion of the tablet, which had been embalm-  
ed 3,500 years ago and invited the congrega-  
tion to examine the tablet, which was  
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